

THE A.P.R.O. BULLETIN

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ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO — MAY, 1958

5-6

UAO Photographed Over Holloman Test Range

APRO Produces UAO TV Film

Recently this office wrote to the McClellan subcommittee on government operations offering its help in the investigations mentioned by Don Keyhoe on the Circle Theater program. An answer was received dated May 13, 1958, signed by Donald O'Donnell, acting Chief Counsel. We quote in part:

"I would like to correct the wrong impression you have as to what this subcommittee is doing. We are not holding any hearings concerning 'the Air Force conspiracy' to withhold information concerning this subject. As a matter of fact, we conducted a very limited number of interviews but did not make any investigation of the matter as such. In view of this we are in no position to hold hearings, either private or public."

Further, during early April, Attorney Jules B. St. Germain wrote the Secretary of Air Defense suggesting an unrehearsed factual public panel discussion of the UAO problem. His answer came from Lawrence J. Tacker, Major, USAF, in part as follows:

"Your interest is appreciated. However, we do not feel that a debate or discussion on this subject would serve our best interests."

With these two avenues toward an informed public effectively blocked, it became apparent that an alternate road must be found.

Television station KOB-TV in Albuquerque had previously arranged for Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzen to appear and discuss the UAO situation. They were to be provided full opportunity to present whatever material they wished. Our correspondence over the past year and especially since the Circle Theater fiasco indicates that many local TV stations would be glad to do the same if they had the material available. Therefore, it was decided to film our show and make it available to other stations. This was a big gamble to take since it involved committing ourselves to obligations which the treasury is not able to support at present. The show was accomplished in an interview format and concerned mainly with the presentation and analysis of visual material. The



UAO Over Newport Beach Harbor

California papers latched onto reports of two UAO sighted off the Newport Pier on Wednesday, April 8. Although this sighting received a lot of attention, another had been seen on the preceding Sunday, 5 April, at 4:05 a.m. Four sheriff's deputies and San Clemente police officers saw a slow-moving object with a "string of lights." They followed it to the vicinity of El Toro and it was later seen by other officers at 5:45 a.m., after which it changed course and flew out of sight over the ocean. The object was at an estimated altitude of 4,000 feet; and was reportedly picked up on radar at the Long Beach Airport.

Two "flat objects" flashing red lights along their leading edges executed a shallow dive off Newport Beach, California on April 8th. A half dozen people including Patrolman Roger Gordon observed the hovering objects at 9:30 p.m. Gordon said they were apparently flying at 500 feet, headed northeast. They appeared to be flat, delta-wing objects with no tail or superstructure. Six lights on the trailing edge flashed off and on in a series. One object made a right turn over Newport and the other went up the Coast until it reached the vicinity of the

On the 16th of October 1957, Miss Ella Louise Fortune, Welfare Nurse at the Mescalero Indian Reservation, photographed an unconventional aerial object which was hovering over the Holloman North Test Range. Her camera, a Kodak Pony 135, was loaded with color film, but she didn't think of a picture when she first saw the object.

Nurse Fortune toolled her little station wagon up the railroad overpass just north of Tularosa, and when she reached the top and angled down the decline, she saw the object to the WNW, a glowing white flattened egg-shaped object against a clear blue sky. She continued to drive, watching as much as she could without taking unnecessary chances with her driving. At about 6 miles north of Tularosa, she decided to snap a picture so that she would have pictorial evidence of what she had seen. She stopped, made one exposure, then continued on her way to the Three Rivers Settlement where she checked and visited an Indian patient. The object had appeared to be motionless at all times, with a clearly defined edge. There was little or no wind.

The picture first appeared in the Portales, New Mexico paper, and the editor seemed to think the object might possibly be a parachute or balloon with the lines trailing to the south. The object did not

(See APRO TV Films, page 2)

(See UAO Over Newport, page 3)

(See UAO Photographed, page 7)

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What About Venus

As a UAO Base?

By Gaston Burridge

Venus was quite a gal—and the planet named for her may be quite a place! Who knows? It is the planet we will discuss here.

There are nearly as many different opinions regarding Venus as observers of it. This sphere has figured heavily in UAO matters for years. Even professional astronomers cannot agree on that which they see there, or on that which anyone else says he sees. Venus holds more mysteries than Mars—and it is much nearer to us.

What are some of the things concerning Venus upon which there is most agreement among observers? One is, the "Morning Star—or the Evening Star," depending on when viewed, is 67,200,000 miles from the Sun. This makes it nearly 26 million miles closer to the central heat than Earth. The diameter of Venus is close to 7,700 miles. The Earth is about 8,000 miles. So we are near the same size. Astronomers conclude Venus' mass to be 0.81 that of the Earth's. Venus has an atmosphere—a great deal of atmosphere—and because she has this atmosphere is the reason for much of the planet's mystery. The atmosphere hides the planet most of the time!

Does Venus turn on its axis? Another bone of contention for decades. Its spin is reported to range from zero turns per 24 hours to one turn per 24 hours—as turns Earth. Again, no one can be sure

(See *Venus UAO Base*, page 7)UAO Activity Over
New Mexico

On the 19th of April, two security guards, Tom Reeder and James Turbin, employed by the Argus Investigative Agency at Albuquerque and on duty on a mine assignment near Grants, made a report on a UAO which they had observed for several hours early that morning.

At 3:30 a.m., they spotted what appeared to be a headlight or a "spotlight" on a mesa to the northeast. They said the light bounced a few feet into the air three or four times, then shot straight into the air, getting brighter and brighter. Reeder said it was so bright it hurt his eyes.

A "streamer" shot out from the bright disc at what would be 6 o'clock on a clock face, appearing to be 10-20 feet long, and of a silvery white color. Other streamers shot out at 3 and 12 o'clock, changing color from white to red to blue.

After the streamers showed, the object shot up to approximately 35-40,000 feet, made a horizontal circle, then headed east toward Tucumcari. Then the object stayed in one spot for a period of time, retraced its original route about half-way, stopped a while, then returned to its original position.

Reeder said that he and Turbin watched the light until daylight. In statements to the press, both men said that a yellowish light to the west of them which looked like the brief glare from an explosion of some kind, showed up each time the sky object moved.

On Sunday morning, the 20th of April, Turbin and Reed watched for the object, believed they saw a glow through the clouds in the same general direction they had observed the phenomenon Saturday. Harlan Wetzel, Argus representative in Albuquerque, vouched for the dependability of the men.

Only four days before this observation, Farmer T. J. Wilson of Pecos, New Mexico, reported an unconventional aerial object which hovered over his farm at an approximate altitude of 5,000 feet, and made a sound like a jet engine. Wilson said the object had no wings, no superstructure, appeared to be about 75 feet high and 50 feet wide. It was silver and revolved about 1 turn each two seconds. He and a bracero (Mexican National laborer) watched the object from 11:42 a.m. when he first spotted it until 11:44 a.m. when the object rose straight up, then headed in a northwest direction. It disappeared completely at 11:49. A check with the GOC station in the area yielded no information. The information was relayed to the Air Defense Center in El Paso, which requested a diagram and complete details. This information

APRO TV FILMS . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Greco and Fortune photos were projected and analysis given showing that they could not possibly be lenticular cloud formations. The Corrales photo was presented with its qualifying attribution. The triangulation of the Sturgeon Bay sighting of 1952 was explained through the use of diagrams and map. Carl Hawk of Sandia Corporation, Albuquerque, New Mexico, gave a detailed account with illustration of a sighting in which he was personally involved. At the end of this sequence, member Heartsill Cribb of the KOB-TV announcing staff asked several pertinent questions which were answered by Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzen.

The show closed with a quote from a personal letter from Dr. Carl G. Jung, the noted Swiss psychologist. The words "Air Force" were not mentioned or even inferred throughout.

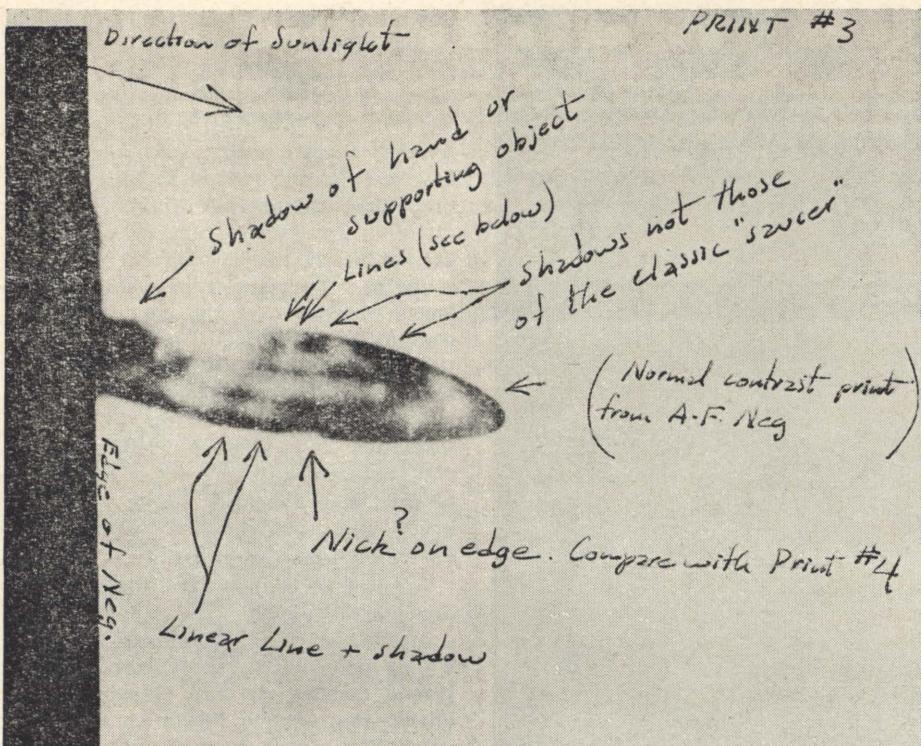
We hope, of course, that our initial investment will be gradually reimbursed through rental fees charged for the use of the film. We also hope that the response is sufficient to warrant future productions of this type. However, we are at present faced with the filming bill which falls due at the end of this month. Therefore, we urge members to take one or more of the following actions:

1. Reinforce the treasury by renewing early or paying dues in advance.
2. Send checks in any amount payable to APRO Television film fund. This money will be refunded as film rentals come in.
3. Make outright donations for this cause.
4. Approach your local television station and inform them of the availability of this film.

The amount of rental fee has not been established but will depend on initial response. We hope to be able to make this a continuing service in the future, depending on the response to the initial undertaking. We would like to point out that no one will benefit momentarily from this venture—if a profit is made, it will be turned into the treasury to defray the cost of research and possibly additional bulletins. We ask that each and every member support this undertaking to the best of their ability.

was turned over to the Air Force for further investigation.

During this same week, a sighting was made in the vicinity of Holloman Air Force Base but officials there declined to give out any information or names of witnesses.



Report on Savage UFO Photograph

By JOHN T. HOPF

The examination of the Michael Savage photograph was based primarily on the duplicate negative which I am told came from the AF. The original negative that I have examined is slightly larger and is apparently a duplicate made by contact on a larger roll film or film pack which has the same thin base as the original 127 film. This is the most puzzling feature of the whole business. Any commercial photographer would have duplicated this negative on cut film which has a much heavier base. Apparently someone went to a little trouble to fake the appearance of the original negative.

The small print from the original negative shows the same type of detail in the "saucer" however, so it seems safe to assume it is a reasonably accurate copy, except for a probably accidental increase in contrast.

The first disturbing thing about the photo is the fact that the image of the object is not all on the film, the left side being cut off. You would at once suspect that someone was just outside the picture area holding the object. A strong bulky shadow area on this side indicates that this is likely. Being able to just cut off the edge of an object like this is quite a trick, however, even with professional equipment. I would have liked to have seen the other exposure on this same roll.

An apparent nick on the front edge also does not look right and there are definite linear shadows and lines across the disc which show in the blow-ups.

Tests on aircraft photographed flying

UAO OVER NEWPORT . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Santa Ana River, then it turned toward Santa Ana. Gordon called El Toro Marine Corps Air Station and gave his information to the flight operations officer who urged that all information be given to them as fast as possible. No shape was discernible and the objects made no noise.

Other observers disagreed on the number of lights on the objects. Three young fishermen stated that the objects "were sure weird, the way they darted and hovered." When the flight operations officer at El Toro was contacted by OCNS at 11 p.m., he said the only information he had was what Gordon reported, that helicopters "could have been in the area" but he couldn't confirm it. He did not say whether planes were scrambled to search, and declined further comment.

overhead at 75, 150, and 250 mph indicate that the "Holiday Brownie" camera has surprising action-stopping ability with its 1/50 sec. shutter. This would indicate that the blur of the object is due to its being too close to the camera to be in good focus, probably at 2½ to 3 feet. The tests with the camera on aircraft also indicate that "panning" on a moving object will give a picture with the background blurred and the object relatively sharp. The reverse is true in the Savage pic leading me to believe that the camera was held steady, giving a sharp image of the trees and wires.

The width of the Savage saucer on the

UAO Over Albuquerque

By Reliable Unofficial Sources

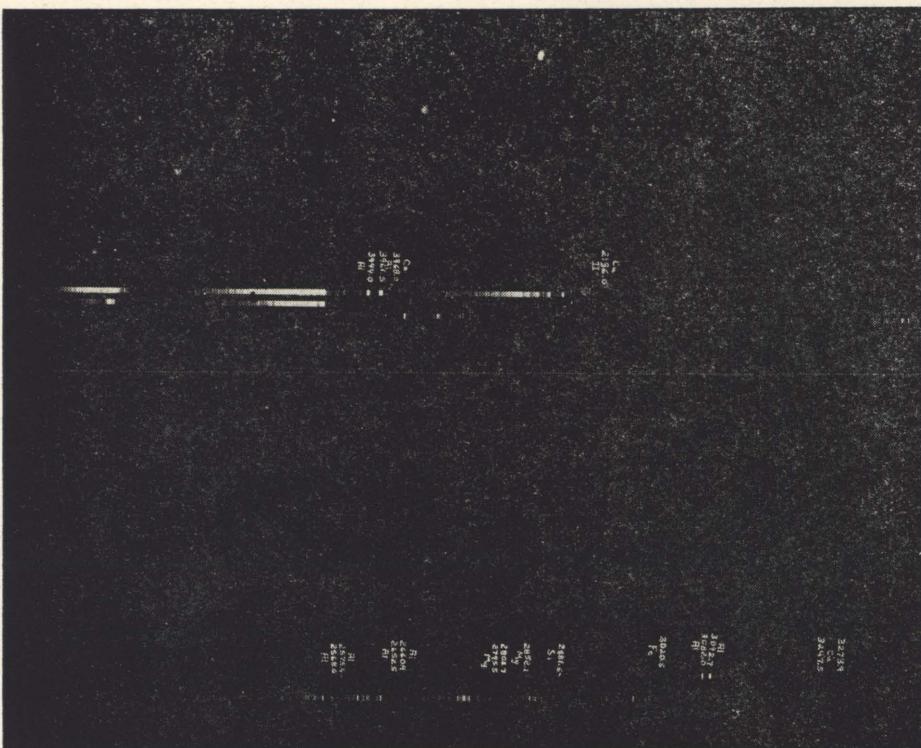
Some people go through months, years, or even a lifetime without so much as getting even a glance at the elusive UAO, while others seem to lead a charmed life with respect to running into sightings. The latter was the case with both Ron Brooks and Ernie Sanders of Albuquerque, who were fortunate enough on April 21, 1958, to spot four formations of UAO's in one evening. Both Brooks and Sanders, who are electronics technicians at the Sandia Corporation, were star-gazing in Brooks' front yard while Becky Brooks and Leona Sanders (their wives) were indoors conversing. Ron, who has been deeply interested in astronomy for about two and a half years, was pointing out Jupiter, at present in the constellation of Virgo, to Ernie, who was observing it through Ron's four-inch refractor. There were no clouds, and the night was very clear, still, and dark, with only a thin, crescent moon visible. The atmosphere was very steady, since 300x observations of good quality had already been made. At about 8:40 P.M. MST, while Ernie was on the telescope and Ron was observing Jupiter with the naked eye, movement in the southeast, in the constellation of Corvus, caught Ron's eye.

A quick glance showed the movement to be caused by a formation of four tiny shapes glowing with a soft, milky-white glow. There was no wind that night, and no sound when the objects went by. With a cry to Ernie, Ron took over the telescope and, about five seconds after first seeing the objects, had it focused on them. Through the scope, the objects appeared elliptical throughout their flight, thus indicating to Ron, whose sight-line was not from under the objects, that their shape was circular. Appearing through the telescope to be about 3/4 the size of a penny held at arm's length, each object was clearly, sharply defined and glowing with its own light, not with reflected light. The formation consisted of three objects in a straight line at

(See UAO Over Albuquerque, page 4)

left edge is greater than it should be for the symmetrical saucer shape and tests of the camera indicate very little distortion of this type near the edge of the picture area, therefore the object may not even have been a "saucer"—more likely a "platter." (Something new in UFOlogy?)

I must emphasize again that this report is based on the duplicate neg sent me; if I had the original which may show more of the object, other points might be revealed, but on the basis of what I have seen here I find little to recommend this as an authentic UFO photograph.



Analysis Reveals Foil To Be Conventional

By PAUL FLEETWOOD

(Ed. Note: In March, headquarters received a small strip of metallic foil from a member in Ohio, with the information that it had fallen out of the sky along with other pieces, in a somewhat strangely arranged pattern. Analysis shows that it is ordinary aluminum foil, and the Assistant Research Director's analysis and explanation follows.)

The sample was a strip of light, silver metal, not unlike aluminum or magnesium. The strip was two inches long and approximately 1/16 inch wide. Two runs were made from one half of the strip on an emission spectrograph, following a calibration run from a known steel alloy. The calibration run accurately locates spectral lines from the unknown and is the vertical column of lines to the right. The steel spectrum is followed by a two-second exposure of the unknown; the vertical column in the center. The last column is the unknown run with a five second exposure.

The first unknown run was given a short exposure to determine the principal constituents; this was aluminum with very light lines at 3961.5, 3944.0, 3082.0 and 2574.4 angstroms (cannot be seen on print of plates). The five second run brought out any remaining elements that might be present in the sample and atmospheric contaminants begin to show here also. The principal aluminum lines are noted along with lines due to copper, iron, silicon, calcium and magnesium; a few of the stronger lines contributed by these elements have been noted.

The spectroscopist feels that the sam-

ple is the common aluminum of commerce (25) with a purity of approximately 99%. The other constituents being copper, iron and silicon. The calcium and possibly some of the silicon are from the atmosphere. The magnesium is principally from the electrodes which form the spark to excite the sample.

(Ed. Note: It seems that several UAO researchers have retrieved samples of this metallic strip foil which is being used for high altitude research (wind-direction and speed, mainly); and although this does not contribute to UAO evidence at hand, it does indicate for members at large, the extent to which staff members must carry their projects in order to give an accurate and true picture of UAO research as it should be.)

UAO OVER ALBUQUERQUE . . .

(Continued from page 3)

right angles to the line of flight, and the fourth in front of and forming a triangle with the two on the west side of the line. When the objects got about due east of the observers, the formation turned suddenly and headed East for a few seconds. Ron noticed that the formation barely filled the four-degree field of his telescope. Finally, the formation turned north again and finally went out of sight in the northeast. Ron estimated that the formation was in sight for about twenty seconds and that he saw them in the telescope for about the last fifteen seconds.

After a short discussion with Ernie about what they had just seen, the two decided to go inside and tell their wives.

Capitalizing on the opportunity to laugh at their husbands, the two wives did just that. At about 10:00 Ernie and Ron went out to the car to check on Ernie's children, who were asleep on the seats. As they turned back toward the house, they were facing east in the direction of the Sandia Mountains. Suddenly, their attention was attracted by a "V" formation of about twenty extremely bright, round objects racing from south to north low in the sky over the mountains. Not wanting to be ridiculed a second time, the men yelled for their wives, who came quickly out of the house. Becky and Leona arrived in time to see the formation as a distant, brilliant, wide "V" just before it went out of sight. The objects had appeared to be about as bright as a spotlight, and were in sight about ten seconds.

The two wives didn't feel like laughing any more.

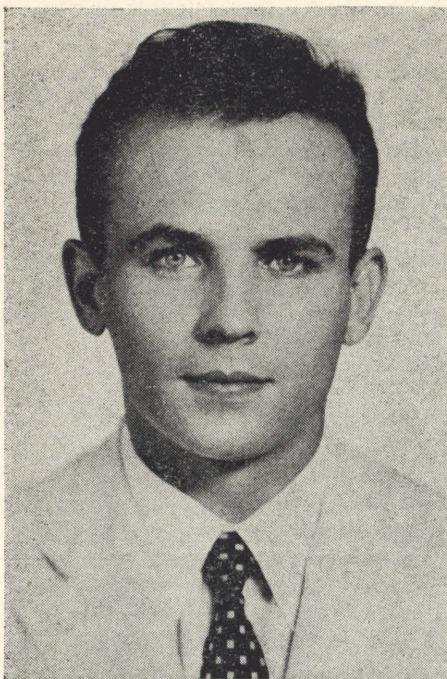
After Ron went inside and returned with a pair of 12× binoculars, the four people decided to stay outside on the chance that another formation might appear. They didn't have long to wait. At about 10:15, six UAO's, identical in appearance with the ones seen at 8:40, went from south to north in a "V" formation about eighty degrees above the western horizon. Ron followed them with his binoculars until they were no longer visible. The formation was traveling rather rapidly and was in sight for only about ten seconds. The witnesses agreed that if they hadn't been watching for them they probably would have missed them completely.

But even the third formation wasn't the last one they saw. It was getting to be like motion picture screen credits—each one that seems to be the last one is followed by another. Accordingly, one more formation of four softly glowing white discs, apparently identical to those of the first and third formations, passed from north to south at 10:35 in a "V" about 70 degrees above the eastern horizon. Ron, who watched them through the 12× binoculars, felt that they were traveling the fastest of all the formations sighted that night since they were in sight for only about six seconds. The four witnesses stayed outside for a few more hours, but nothing else appeared and they called it a night.

After it was all over, all the witnesses agreed that they had seen something "totally unlike anything they had ever seen before."

(Ed. Note: The fact that an unusual number of sightings have been made in the general vicinity of the Sandia Mountains leads us to wonder if the UAO occupants are cognizant of the significance of those mountains in connection with our national defense.)

To fool radar



Shadow of the Unknown

By DR. OLAVO FONTES

An Extraordinary Sky Phenomenon

On June 30, at 5:25 p.m., an unusual sky phenomenon alarmed the population of Belo Horizonte and at least fourteen other towns and villages through the State of Minas Gerais. On the blue sky suddenly appeared a "burning-object," enormous in size, which crossed over Belo Horizonte at tremendous speed—following an East-West course. It disappeared in a split second, leaving behind a wonderful smoky trail, about 80 meters wide. The trajectory followed by the fiery object was almost perpendicular to the ground—an hyperbolic curve, in my opinion—and the trail had an almost vertical direction. No sound was heard at the moment of the sighting but, despite this, the phenomenon was seen by thousands of persons all over the city. At night, the population was again shaken by another strange sighting and almost everybody was on the streets, discussing and commenting the incident. A number of witnesses described the shape of the object as "rocket-like." Many others, however, described it as a "fireball," some saw only the smoky trail, drawing a geometrical vertical line in the sky. Most people thought that the "thing" was, probably, a meteorite or a lost guided missile. Strange as it seems, no one suggested that it could have been a flying saucer.

A few hours later, the first news about what had happened in the western regions of the state became known. At exactly the same hour of the sighting in the capital, a fiery object had been sighted in the sky by thousands of residents from a number of towns and small villages scattered through a large area

of the state. It had frightened the population and caused panic in many places. Most of the hundreds of thousands who saw the "thing," described it as "an incandescent rocket-shaped object." From a few places, however, it was seen as a "fireball." It flashed across the blue sky at fantastic speed, looking like "a rocket fired from outer space toward the ground." It had to be of great size because it was seen from widely separated places. It had to be very high because its smoky (blue smoke) tail was seen from places up to 100 miles apart.

After a few seconds in view, the object suddenly exploded, still high in space, with a very bright glare—and vanished from sight. Six minutes after the tremendous explosion (which was, according to some observers, similar to an atomic bomb blast), a slight earthquake was felt in Para de Minas and other towns in the same area, followed by a terrific noise, heard at a distance of hundreds of miles, and by a shock-wave which was felt from places up to 50 miles apart.

The sky phenomenon was sighted from the following towns and villages: Pitangui, Cogonhas do Campo, Para de Minas, Papagaio, Ibitira, Contagen, Bernardo Monteiro, Divinopolis, Itauna, Agua Limpa, Luz, Sao Jose de Varginha, Sete Lagoas, Paramirim and Abaete.

Feeling that the phenomenon had unusual features, I took on myself the responsibility of investigating the incident. After gathering and comparing data for five weeks, I came to the conclusion that the fiery object was a **meteorite** of unusual size, weighing possibly more than 10 pounds, which became visible at an altitude between 100 and 120 miles, and exploded at an altitude between 30 and 50 miles. It must have come from outside the solar system, because the path along which it moved was a hyperbola. It seems to have disintegrated over the area of the town of Ibitira. From that place, the shape of the meteorite's smoky trail was that of a gigantic spiral which developed around a large ball of smoke. This ball apparently marked the end of the trail—the point where the meteorite had exploded.

On August 1, I saw that my estimation was right. A fragment of the meteorite was found near Ibitira, that date, after a four weeks' search. It was small and seemed to be made of a porous material, but, despite this, it was heavy—weighing 8 pounds. Its surface was covered by a black, oily substance (?). After this oily material was removed, it was verified that the "object" was of a light grey color. It was not radioactive.

A preliminary spectrographic analysis was made. It showed that the object was composed of the following substances, in order of percentages: silicon, magnesium, iron, aluminum, calcium, ti-

tanium, chromium and small traces of sulphur and manganese. It didn't contain sodium, nickel and cobalt—and this was a surprise. A more perfect analysis will be made at Rio's Technological Institute in the near future.

It was only a meteorite—but a strange one.

I have some reasons to include this case in this article about UAO's. First, because of its strange similarity with the phenomenon observed, on June 4, from Merida and other Venezuelan cities—which heralded an unprecedented rise of UAO activity over that area. Second, because of the attitude of the population. The phenomenon produced something approaching a wild panic in all the places where it was sighted. The authorities found it necessary to reassure the people, in the news reports and in the broadcasts which were immediately given. And it was only a meteorite. I wonder about what would happen if it had been an UAO's landing.

Third, because in the data collected about the sighting, I have found evidence that another aerial object was sighted over Belo Horizonte, half an hour before the time of the meteorite. In fact, a small number of witnesses from that city described a different object which was sighted at 5:00 p.m. For some it was shaped like a "cigar," yellow-red in color, which flashed silently across the skies at great speed—towards the West. Like the other, it had also a smoky trail—but its course was reported to be horizontal. Other observers said it was a "bullet-shaped object," aluminum in color, reflecting the yellow-red brightness of the setting sun. If the witnesses can be trusted, this object could have been an UAO. The odds against two similar fireballs in the same area are high. I do not rule out the possibility of an UAO, although I have not enough evidence supporting this hypothesis.

Two Planes Crashed

Still on June 30, two major aircraft accidents were reported—starting a series of sinister air crashes which still is going on. At 4:40 p.m., an Air Force C-47, No. 4,197, exploded in the sky near Fortaleza Air Base, State of Ceara. The pilot was killed. The AF reported that the plane was on a training flight and that the explosion had been caused by unknown factors. An investigation had been started. According to witnesses of the accident, the plane disintegrated suddenly, with noise and violence, and came down in flames. It crashed against a house putting it immediately in flames. Twelve persons were badly burned in the accident. The C-47 engine crashed in the middle of the street, but no one was hurt. The AF survey didn't find any explanation for the explosion and the

(See *Shadow*, page 6)

SHADOW . . .

(Continued from page 5)

accident remains unsolved.

A few minutes before this accident, at 4:15 p.m., a "Piper," the PP-THV, took off from Braganca's Airport, Sao Paulo, en route to Sao Paulo city. Two civilians were in it. It was a sunny day with slight winds and good visibility. Some time after the take-off the plane was seen for the last time near the village of Atibaia. It was out of its course and was flying low. After this, it was no more sighted. It had disappeared leaving no traces. A search was immediately started by the AF through the States of Sao Paulo and Parana. After a three weeks' investigation, the PP-THV was still missing. The case was, then, closed by the AF. However, the missing plane was, at last, found on July 29—near Pau Furado, Sao Paulo. It seemed to have exploded in mid-air, because the fragments were scattered over a large area. The cabin was almost completely burned. Within it were found the bodies of the pilot and passenger. The AF ordered an investigation to discover the cause of the disaster—which still was not ended.

I don't know if these air crashes can be related to the presence of UAO's over my country. Nobody knows. However, two air accidents in the same day are not common here. Unlike other countries, we have had very few air disasters in the last year. The last one had happened months ago. So, the fact was unusual. Besides, the circumstances and time of each one seemed to be almost identical—a strange coincidence. I don't like it.

* * *

After this beginning, UAO operations stepped up rapidly. Several sightings were reported in July and August. Of course, I have no time to describe each one in full detail now. For that reason, I shall give only a brief evaluation of the general situation; most of the cases will only be reviewed or recorded—with a few words, in a complete manner. But two cases will be discussed in full detail because they are worth particular attention by the public. Both of them refer to UAO's sighted from commercial airliners. So, they are similar to the sighting of June 29—from the same class or type.

Two UAO's "Visit" Rio de Janeiro

On July 2, the city of Rio de Janeiro was "visited" by two UAO's. They were seen from Arpoador beach, near Copacabana, by a lawyer—Mr. Afonso Gomes—between 8:00 and 8:30 p.m. They appeared to be two spherical (or round) objects, surrounded by a strong, bright and homogeneous silvery glow. They were floating side by side in space, at an unknown altitude, and were placed

above the mountain called "Pedra da Gavea" (Gavea Rock). They were motionless and made no noise during the time they were visible to the witness. Mr. Gomes told me that the objects could be compared to two large, silvery moons, hovering together over the Gavea Rock, in a good position to observe a large part of the city. Their size couldn't be estimated, not knowing the height—but their angular size (or diameter) was larger than that of the full moon. They stood still in the same position over the mountain for three minutes, before finally disappearing. However, they didn't disappear in the UAO's usual way, but in a very different and somewhat peculiar manner. The witness described it as the following:

"A black band appeared suddenly on both the luminous spheres—going out from the center to the lower pole. This black band began to spread slow and gradually to each side. Soon the whole lower hemisphere on each sphere was out of sight, dissolved into the darkness. Then, the same change began to occur on the upper hemisphere—that still glowed brightly into the night. A similar black band appeared there, going out from the center to the north pole of both objects, and spread slowly to the sides. When the process had been completed, there was no more the "silvery moons." They had been reduced to a thin luminous horizontal band—placed around the equator of each sphere. All the rest had disappeared into the darkness. But soon the luminous bands disappeared too, and the UAO's were gone—or, perhaps, remained for some time at the place—protected by the darkness, not visible any more.

I have interviewed personally the witness. He didn't know what to think about the objects, but believed the phenomenon to be strange enough to be reported.

The curious, gradual darkening of the UAO's in this case suggests that a screen of some sort was being used to conceal the light emitted by both crafts. Its presence obviously excludes the possibility of a natural phenomenon.

* * *

What Was It?

On the night of July 4, the population of Vitoria, the beautiful capital of the State of Espirito Santo was shaken by the news about a strange event. A "Real-Aerovias" airliner had been haunted for a long time that night by a flying saucer or something of the sort. Soon after the landing, the news spread rapidly through the town and a number of people hurried to the airport to learn about the incident. In their reports to the press the crew and passengers of the plane confirmed the sighting and added new details. They stated the UAO was, in fact, one of the so-called flying saucers. Detailed eye-

witness accounts were soon on the wires. The story drew unusual attention and received national publicity.

The Real-Aerovias DC-3 was the PP-YQP which had taken off from Rio's Santos Dumont Airport en route to Vitoria. At the controls was Commander Delgado, the pilot. In the cockpit with him was the co-pilot, Commander Clodoaldo. Radio Operator Malter and Steward Magalhaes completed the crew. It was a dark night with a few scattered clouds overhead; there was no haze and visibility was good enough.

Nothing unusual had happened in the first half of the trip. But, when the plane was flying at about seven and a half miles from the town of Campos, Rio de Janeiro (State), the co-pilot spotted a strange red-glowing object in the sky. It shot out of the clouds at high speed and was coming after the aircraft—apparently following it at some distance.

Amazed, Commander Clodoaldo watched the scene. He saw at once that this was no wing-tip light—it was larger and too bright. It was not a conventional aircraft. What was it? Puzzled, he called the attention of the pilot to the "unknown." Commander Delgado, after a careful observation, decided to alert the passengers. A few minutes later, all persons aboard the plane were watching the phenomenon—startled.

The UAO continued to escort the airliner for almost an hour. In fact, it followed the plane for the rest of the trip—through a distance of about 180 miles. All the time, the members of the crew and the passengers had the opportunity to watch the strange object and to follow its incredible evolutions. At first there was panic among the passengers. The UAO, however, never exhibited through its maneuvers any menacing or hostile intention. This calmed down the frightened passengers, who gradually relaxed as they realized they were not in danger. At the end, some of them even enjoyed the spectacle.

The UAO never came too close, always keeping at some distance from the DC-3. But, on the other hand, it didn't maintain a fixed position for more than a few minutes and was constantly changing places around the plane. However, it remained for a time at some miles in the rear of it. Then, in a rush of speed, the UAO passed the airliner and traveled for a time in front of it. But soon, with the same unexpected readiness, it changed places again—reversing to its former position behind the aircraft. After repeating this maneuver for a number of times—crossing above, below or at one side of the plane—the "unknown" again changed its tactics. It started a series of evolutions around the plane—performing the most fantastic maneuvers ever seen

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SHADOW . . .

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by the observers. At last, after enjoying the game for a time, it again started to escort the plane and to change places with it.

All the witnesses stated that the UAO was a round-shaped object, looking like a flattened disc with a kind of cupola or dome on top of it. This cupola obviously was a cabin of some sort because it had a row of windows. The whole cupola glowed with an intense red light—but the windows were not lighted. There was also a bright red light on the under side of the alien craft. The bright red glow around the object was enough for the observers to see that it was wingless, with no protruding fins.

At times the UAO entered a cloud and was briefly out of sight. All the observers noticed that when this happened the windows on the object were lighted. In fact, they could be seen through the clouds glowing brightly—their powerful varicolored light projecting against the clouds around the UAO. All the reports agreed that this curious behavior was repeated again and again. But **only when the UAO was out of sight** inside or behind a cloud. Moreover, the lights on those windows were quickly turned off at the moment the UAO had left the clouds—and was again in full sight.

As in the other incident already reported, it was impossible to make a correct estimation about the UAO size, not knowing the distance. But it seemed to be fairly large. Some passengers described it as about twice the size of the DC-3. Of course, this was only a guess.

When the plane was approaching Guarapari, Espiritu Santo, and the lights of Vitoria were already appearing on the horizon, the mysterious hunter at last abandoned the chase. It veered sharply to the left and flashed away at fantastic speed. In barely more than a second the eerie machine—a diminishing red spot in the darkness—vanished into the night. A few minutes later the airliner landed at the Airport of Vitoria.

The reports of the airliner's crew were fully confirmed in the accounts obtained from the passengers. A careful check showed that all witnesses had seen the same things. The following passengers were interviewed by the press about the incidents: Antonio Coimbra, Raul Chambre, Olimpio Filho, Alba Montenegro, Francisco Michel, Altair Pereira, Arno Abib, Peter Longov, Luis Beleza and Jose Lion.

Next day, the story hit the headlines all over the country. Despite this national publicity, the Brazilian Air Force refused to make any comment about the sighting—as was to be expected.

What was it?

(To Be Continued)

VENUS UAO BASE . . .

(Continued from page 2)

because of the planet's atmosphere. Even with all its admitted atmosphere, if Venus always keeps one face to the sun, that face boils. The side in the shade is many degrees below zero. Neither, a place for "life" as we know it—or as we can conceive of it.

What about this atmosphere of Venus? Astronomers say, "No oxygen—just carbon dioxide." If no oxygen there can be no water—no water vapor—hence no life as we know it. If no life, then no mobile intelligence!

So, Venus appears pretty dismal as an abode for a UAO base—or source. Shall we toss it into the ash can and forget all about it then? Let's not! Why? Because there are many more people here on Earth, besides astronomers, who have been looking at Venus—and have been watching that planet many-a-night for many nights! Who are they? They are some of the members of the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers.

These people are no scatter-brains—eyes aglaze with the light they view. Many of them have built their own telescopes from scratch—lenses and all—and no scratches on the lenses, either! If you don't think building a telescope—even a small one—is a task, just try it sometime and see how much you learn!

These folk publish a very attractive, slick-paper, well illustrated, competently edited quarterly called "The Strolling Astronomer." It is headquartered at 1203 N. Alameda Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico. The magazine is edited by Dr. Walter H. Haas, who is also director of the Association.

In the big 72-page January-June issue is published the paper, "Venus—The Unknown Planet," by Dr. James C. Bartlett Jr., that was read to the A.L.P.O. Convention assembled at Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff, Arizona, September 1, 1956. It is the very conservatively worded and presented information in this paper which keeps Venus not only a "possible," but we think a "probable" source or base for mobile intelligence.

One thing of great interest to us in Dr. Bartlett's paper was the indication that the Venus atmosphere is **not always opaque!** There have been many observations of rifts or fadings. These indicate movement—something of a turbulence in the Venusian "air." Thus, it is not perpetually cloudy there. If there is atmospheric movement on Venus, it could well indicate surface movement of the planet itself—a heating and cooling of different parts of that globe. Dr. Bartlett remarks that he has observed evidence leading him to conjecture a possible rotation of the planet at about once per 24 hours.

There also seems good evidence of surface markings on the shell when these

UAO PHOTOGRAPHED . . .

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reflect light, and according to Ella Fortune, it had density, and appeared to emit its own light. The absence of wind precludes the possibility that the object might have been either balloon or parachute, as there was no billowing of the object, so characteristic and obvious in a balloon or parachute flight.

When Miss Fortune was interviewed by Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzen, she was very positive about the impression that the object was a dense object—not nebulous and filmy like a cloud. The high-lying wind-blown clouds in the sky which are also obvious in the picture indicate wind at high altitude, at least 10,000 feet. When asked whether she felt the object might have been a lenticular cloud, Miss Fortune said that she was very familiar with lenticular cloud structures, and was positive the object in question was not a cloud of any kind.

A preliminary analysis was done by Mr. Brown. He found, in heightening the contrast, that a rim and other contours on the object were brought out, but that the "trail" faded almost to nothing. The apparent distance between the object and the mountains is about 15 miles, or approximately halfway between Highway 54 and the San Andreas Mountains, seen in the background. Miss Fortune felt that the object was about halfway between her position and the mountains. It is regrettable that she did not take other exposures of the object at several points along the road; they would have been invaluable for the purpose of triangulation to gain some knowledge as to size.

Professional mathematicians and analysts in the Alamogordo membership, who are employed at Holloman and familiar with current missile, balloon and parachute research projects, have admitted that their evaluation must conclude that the pictured object is an unconventional aerial object.

A more detailed and intensive analysis is being exacted by Mr. Hopf, our photographic consultant, and we hope to include the results in the July Bulletin.

breaks in the clouds come. These supposed surface markings take on a definite "spoke-system," radiating from a central hub. This system has recently been traced by Mr. R. M. Baum, and follows closely that of Percival Lowell outlined years ago.

For those interested in Venus, regardless of aspect, we think this paper, and fraternal relationship with those of the A.L.P.O. observing this planet, a splendid adjunct.

RECENT SIGHTINGS

Again, we cannot possibly print all of the sightings received since the January APRO Bulletin was mailed. Results of investigations of November sightings and incidents are still pending, sightings from that period are still coming in, and the UAO have in no way been stand-offish since. There have been a good number of sightings in January and February, and we include the most detailed and interesting here.

Wales, England, November, 1957. Bobbies watched a blood-red disc-shaped object with a black streak across its center, as it apparently rose from the water on the horizon, remained at sea level momentarily, then moved off at "fantastic speed" toward the Atlantic. The object appeared to be larger than a harvest moon when near the horizon. Authorities suggest it might have been either a reflection of a bright planet or the aurora borealis.

Ghost Ranch, New Mexico, 1957. Milton Garcia of San Pedro, N. M., and Rudy Valdez of Hernandez reported observing a weird object while driving from Ghost Ranch at about 4:45 p. m. Neither man recalls now the exact date, but the sighting took place sometime during the first week of the November "flap." The car suddenly choked and the engine died. Garcia said he then noticed a glowing red, streamlined "mushroom - shaped" object to the left ahead of them. Flames seemed to be shooting off the surface of the thing, and it was proceeding across the sky at a high rate of speed. Garcia said that he got a better look as Valdez was driving, and watched the object come between them and a pinon tree, after which it disappeared suddenly.

San Fernando Valley, California, 5 November, 1957. Too numerous to mention, many residents reported unidentified lighted objects in the sky at Van Nuys, Beverly Hills, Corona del Mar, Borrego Springs, Long Beach Municipal Airport, Los Alamitos Naval Air Station and International Airport, to mention a few places. Los Alamitos personnel couldn't identify the saucer-shaped objects, nor could Air Force weather observers at Long Beach Municipal Airport. Major Baker, commander of the weather observation post at LBMA, said they were circular and shiny like spun aluminum, and changed course instantaneously without loss of speed. As usual, the "experts" theorized but their explanations didn't match the facts. U.S. Weather Bureau "officials" (unidentified) said they knew of no atmospheric conditions which could cause the reported phenomena, and Dr. Dinsmore Alter, head of the Griffith Park observatory, said "unsteady air" caused the planet Venus to shine brighter than it normally does. He also said Arcturus was shining bright-

er than usual, but did not attempt to link those statements with the objects seen.

Urbana, Illinois, 6 November, 1957. The radio in a state patrol car went mysteriously dead preventing Calvin Showers of Danville and John Matulis of Westville, to recount their chase of a UAO to headquarters. The radio functioned properly before and after the chase, they said. The chase involved 15 miles of driving in an attempt to catch up with a "brilliant flying object" which kept just ahead of them. The object was the "glowing egg-shaped" type.

On the 9th of November, Hattie Logie, Loren Turley and Pauline Baxter, all of Bedford, Indiana, came into police headquarters at Bedford and reported that they had seen a strange blue and white object which loomed above the Free Methodist Church at Seventh and R. streets. It didn't appear to be landing, although it was low. Suddenly it veered off southwest, and the women started to follow it, two of them watching it while the other drove. They pursued the object to the west end of Twelfth street where it appeared to drop behind Ingalls' Stone Mill beside Spider Creek. As it approached the ground, Mrs. Logie said, the car engine died, and it wouldn't start again until a few seconds later when the object reappeared behind the mill, ascending into the sky. It left a bluish trail spotted with white. No noise was heard, and the object suddenly just disappeared. Sgt. Matthews at the police department stated his convictions that the women had seen "something."

On 27 November, in the French Alps, the director of a Grenoble engineering firm and four of his staff watched five disc-shaped objects hovering over the mountains for about eight minutes. Their eyes were attracted to the sky by the sound of what they thought was jet planes, then the five black "rotating objects" came into view. The objects cavorted for a few moments, then were joined by a white object which resembled a parachute, and which appeared to have emerged from one of the black objects. All six objects then shot away at supersonic speed toward the Swiss border. The observers were convinced the objects were not jet aircraft, helicopters or balloons, for their work brought them into frequent contact with them.

Geelong, Victoria, Australia, 29 November. An object estimated by observers to be 30 feet long, was observed by many in this area. Just before 10:45 a. m. Jim Henderson heard a loud explosive report, then saw clouds of dust and smoke rising into the sky. Soon after, he spotted an object which resembled a guided missile, and had a pointed, shiny nose. Observers watched the object for five minutes, during which time part of

it fell off and to the ground. The portion which fell first followed the main object for about 400 yards before it apparently struck earth.

8 December, Portland, Oregon. A boomerang-shaped object, black in color, was sighted at 11:45 a. m. by Mr. and Mrs. Harry D. Biggs and their son. Biggs said the object was about 2000 feet from the ground and moved rapidly out of sight. They said the object first seemed to divide into two parts, then joined together as it moved out of sight.

8 December, Belmont, California. Belmont residents and police observed fast-moving lights which changed color.

11 December, Mexico City, Mexico. Pilot Gilberto Castillo del Valle, his copilot, stewardess and a half dozen passengers, observed a luminous, fast-moving object which attracted their attention when its light lit up the cabin of the passenger plane in which they were flying. The plane lights were turned off and the observers saw the bright object clearly as it maneuvered around their plane. The Mexico City airport control tower personnel, warned by the pilot, saw the same phenomena.

29 December, Kaikōrē, New Zealand. Waiharara and Kaitala residents observed two silver disc-shaped objects travel overhead, from horizon to horizon.

Carbondale, Illinois, 9 January, 1958. Jim Brunner, Arthur Aydt and Mike Wilson observed a strange group of lights at 8:25 p. m. The lights were seven in number, and were parallel to the horizon, spaced at regular intervals when first spotted. They remained stationary for more than five minutes, then slowly started to move east at about the same altitude. Then they did a complete turn, moving back southwest and gaining a little altitude. Shortly after this, they clustered up and remained stationary for three to five minutes, then moved southwest until they were almost due west. While the men watched, six more lights appeared, making a total of thirteen, and were shortly lost to sight. During the observation, it was noted that one at a time, the objects would increase its brilliancy for from five to ten seconds, then go back to normal.

23 February, Brewer, Maine. A cylindrical object, giving off a silvery blaze of light hovered in the southwest skies and was viewed by many. It was in sight at that location from midnight 22 February until about 5 a. m. on the 23rd, when it dropped suddenly, then maintained its original position. One telephone report on the object claimed that the object had almost dropped on a car. Officials at Dow Air Force Base said it might have been the planet Jupiter, but Professor Maynard F. Jordan, professor of astronomy at the University of Maine, said he couldn't think of anything "that would perform that way."